

SENATE BILL 616

By Southerland

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 7,  
relative to services over broadband networks.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 7, Chapter 59, Part 3, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated section:

§ 7-59-3\_\_.

(a) Notwithstanding § 7-52-601(e), a municipal electric system providing any of the services described in § 7-52-601 on or after the effective date of this act shall be authorized to obtain a state-issued certificate of franchise authority in accordance with this part. Subject to chapter 52, part 6, of this title, a state-issued certificate of franchise authority shall authorize a municipal electric system, either directly or through a joint venture or other business relationship with one (1) or more third parties, to provide Internet service, two-way video service, video programming, cable service and other similar services throughout the area covered by the state-issued certificate of franchise authority.

(b) Prior to providing any such services outside of its electric system service area, a municipal electric system shall obtain the consent of each electric cooperative or other municipal electric system in whose territory the municipal electric system will provide such services.

(c) Nothing in this section shall alter, restrict or expand the jurisdiction and authority of the Tennessee regulatory authority pursuant to title 65 and this part as such jurisdiction and authority may be amended from time to time.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.